Minimum Level of Learning Programme

672. SHRIMATI VANG A GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of Minimum Levels of Learning Programme;

(a) the names of states where Programme has been introduced; and

(b) the progress made through this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Minimum Levels of Learning (MLL) were laid down with the aim that irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, all children must be given education of a comparable standard. The MLL strategy for improving the quality of elementary education is an attempt to combine quality with equity.

(a) As per the submissions in the Satya Pal Anand case in the Supreme Court regarding elementary education as a fundamental right (1998), 25 States and Union Territories *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi and Pondicherry have introduced Minimum Levels of Learning (MLL) at primary level.

(b) After the articulation of MLLs, competency-based learning was introduced. Development of new textbooks, training of teachers, preparation of work-books, preparation of competency-based books, preparation of teachers' manuals, translation of MLL document at primary stage in various languages, etc. have been taken up in the. States.